

DETAILED ACTION

EXAMINER'S AMENDMENT

An examiner's amendment to the record appears below. Should the changes and/or additions be unacceptable to applicant, an amendment may be filed as provided by 37 CFR 1.312. To ensure consideration of such an amendment, it MUST be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee.

Authorization for this examiner's amendment was given in a telephone interview with Weston Gould on 11/17/2009.

Amend the claims as follows:

Amend claims 1, 15 as follows:

1. (Currently Amended) A process for analyzing proteins or viruses in a sample comprising:

dividing a sample having a protein or virus component into a plurality of n aliquots;
simultaneously applying each of said plurality of n aliquots in parallel and separately to a
first separation step comprising: to a plurality of simultaneous n first separation steps;
washing each of said n aliquots first separation steps with a set of corresponding buffer
C_{n-1} of a monotonically changing buffer[[s]] set C_{n-1} to C_n to yield a plurality of first n fractions
C₀ to C_{n-1};
eluting each of said washed n aliquots with a corresponding first separation steps with
buffer set C₁ to C_n to yield a plurality of uniquely different partially resolved first n eluates;
simultaneously subjecting said plurality of partially resolved first n eluates in parallel to a
second separation step to yield a plurality of second n resolved fractions, and
analyzing at least one of said plurality of second n resolved fractions.

15. (Currently Amended) A process for analyzing proteins or viruses in a sample comprising:

dividing a sample having a protein or virus component into a plurality of n aliquots;

simultaneously applying each of said plurality of n aliquots in parallel and separately to a first separation step comprising: to a plurality of simultaneous n first separation steps;

washing each of said n aliquots first separation steps with a set of corresponding buffer C_{n-1} of a monotonically changing buffer[[s]] set C_{n-1} to C_n to yield a plurality of first n fractions E₀ to E_{n-1};

eluting each of said washed n aliquots with a corresponding first separation steps with buffer set C₀ to C_n to yield a plurality of uniquely different partially resolved first n eluates;

subjecting said plurality of partially resolved eluates in parallel to a second separation step to yield a plurality of resolved fractions;

digesting said plurality of partially resolved first n eluates with a proteolytic enzyme to yield a plurality of digested eluates;

subjecting said plurality of digested eluates in parallel to a second separation step to yield a plurality of second n resolved peptide fractions, and

analyzing at least one of said plurality of second n resolved fractions.

Claims Allowance

Claims 1-3, 5-17, 19, 21-22, 24-27, 30-34 are allowed.

Any comments considered necessary by applicant must be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee and, to avoid processing delays, should preferably accompany the issue fee. Such submissions should be clearly labeled "Comments on Statement of Reasons for Allowance."

Conclusion

Certain papers related to this application may be submitted to Art Unit 1657 by facsimile transmission. The faxing of such papers must conform with the notices published in the Official Gazette, 1156 OG 61 (November 16, 1993) and 1157 OG 94 (December 28, 1993) (see 37 C.F.R. § 1.6(d)). The official fax telephone number for the Group is 571-273-8300. NOTE: If Applicant *does* submit a paper by fax, the original signed copy should be retained by applicant or applicant's representative. NO DUPLICATE COPIES SHOULD BE SUBMITTED so as to avoid the processing of duplicate papers in the Office.

Any inquiry of a general nature or relating to the status of this application or proceeding should be directed to (571) 272-0547.

Patent applicants with problems or questions regarding electronic images that can be

viewed in the Patent Application Information Retrieval system (PAIR) can now contact the USPTO's Patent Electronic Business Center (Patent EBC) for assistance. Representatives are available to answer your questions daily from 6 am to midnight (EST). The toll free number is (866) 217-9197. When calling please have your application serial or patent number, the type of document you are having an image problem with, the number of pages and the specific nature of the problem. The Patent Electronic Business Center will notify applicants of the resolution of the problem within 5-7 business days. Applicants can also check PAIR to confirm that the problem has been corrected. The USPTO's Patent Electronic Business Center is a complete service center supporting all patent business on the Internet. The USPTO's PAIR system provides Internet-based access to patent application status and history information. It also enables applicants to view the scanned images of their own application file folder(s) as well as general patent information available to the public.

For all other customer support, please call the USPTO Call Center (UCC) at 800-786-9199.

Any inquiry concerning rejections or objections in this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Bin Shen, whose telephone number is (571) 272-9040. The examiner can normally be reached on Monday through Friday, from about 9:00 AM to about 5:30 PM. A phone message left at this number will be responded to as soon as possible (i.e., shortly after the examiner returns to her office).

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Mannunath Rao can be reached at (571) 272-0939.

B Shen

Art Unit 1657

/Karen Cochrane Carlson/
Primary Examiner, Art Unit 1656